Beggars in trains

†5484. SHRI VIJAY SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of beggars in trains is increasing consistently;

(b) if so, whether the Ministry of Railways is aware of inconvenience caused to passengers, specially difficulties being faced by passengers of reserved compartments, in safeguarding their luggage; and

(c) if so, the details of steps Government propose to take to stop beggary in trains?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, bonafide passengers are inconvenienced due to entry of unauthorised persons in reserved compartments.

(c) In addition to regular checks, special drives are conducted from time to time by the ticket checking staff and police to apprehend beggars both in trains and on platforms and action taken against them as per the relevant provisions of law.

Quality of food on trains

5485. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons behind the poor quality of food on the running trains;

(b) why vendors are allowed to roam about freely on the running trains who often commit a lot of thefts; and

(c) whether Railway Minister would take cognizance of this and improve the food quality especially on long distance trains?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) Sometimes complaints do arise regarding quality of food, for which remedial action is taken.

(b) Authorised vendors only are permitted to vend essential items in

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.